Grain-Bank Scheme in M.P.

3159. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Grain-Bank Scheme of Madhya Pradesh Government has been approved by Central Government;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) how many districts, blocks and villages would be covered under it, what would be the capacities of these Grain-Banks?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No Sir;

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Constitution of Panchayati Rajya State Finance Commission

†3160. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether constitution of a Panchayati Rajya State Finance Commission in each State is considered essential for financing the village Panchayats;

(b) if so, the State in which much Panchayati Rajya State Finance Commissions have not been constituted even after Panchayat elections;

(c) whether non-constitution of the Panchayati Rajya State Finance Commission is a violation of the 73rd amendment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to get the Panchayati Rajya State Finance Commissions constituted in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (d) Article 243-I of the Constitution of India provides that the States shall constitute State Finance Commissions (SFCs) to review the financial position of the Panchayats and to make recommendations for improvement of financial position of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Arunachal Pradesh and Jharkhand have not yet constituted SFC. These States have also not yet been held Panchayat Elections.

It is mandatory on the part of the State Governments to constitute SFC.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act could not be notified in May, 2001 after the President accorded his approval on the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Bill. Jharkhand being a newly created State have reported to hold Panchayat election by the end of this year. The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Jharkhand have been requested to constitute SFC at the earliest.

More fund for construction of roads in tribal areas under PMGSY

3161. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the villages in the tribal areas are still unconnected with fair weather roads contributing to their backwardness;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under the PMGSY the share of funds going to the tribal areas is too meagre in proportion to their backwardness and poverty; and

(c) whether Government propose to allocate more funds for these tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) The Ministry do not have the number of Unconnected Habitations in Tribal areas. While the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana aims to provide road connectivity, through good all-weather roads, to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons, in case of Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the efforts is to connect Habitations with a populations of 250 persons and above.

The allocation of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is made to the States and the distribution of funds among the districts is done by the respective State Governments.

Districts in Bihar covered under ARWSP

†3162. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.